

CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:
receiving video data over a network from a network computer, the video data formatted for display on a large display;
reformatting the video data on an intermediate computer for display on a number of small displays that make up the large display; and
distributing reformatted video data from the intermediate computer to at least some of the small displays.
2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the distributing comprises distributing the reformatted video data to clients, each client configured to drive a small display.
3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
receiving configuration information at the intermediate computer that includes an identification, a location, and a screen resolution for each of the small displays;
determining a large display resolution based on the configuration information; and
sending a request to the network computer from the intermediate computer to transfer the video data from the network computer to the intermediate computer at the large display resolution.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the reformatting comprises converting coordinates of drawing commands from large display coordinates into small display coordinates.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the reformatting comprises creating multiple drawing commands from a single drawing command, wherein the single drawing command would otherwise control a drawing that spans two or more of the small displays.

6. A processor-readable medium comprising processor-executable instructions configured for:

receiving configuration information at an intermediate computer regarding an assembly of small displays that forms a large display;

receiving video data over a computer network at the intermediate computer, the video data configured for display on the large display;

reconfiguring the video data for display on the small displays in accordance with the configuration information; and

sending reconfigured video data from the intermediate computer to the small displays.

7. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 6, comprising further processor-executable instructions configured for:

determining a large display resolution from the configuration information; and

requesting from a network computer, the video data at the large display resolution.

8. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 7:

wherein the configuration information includes an identification for each small display, a location of each small display within the large display, and a small display resolution for each small display; and

wherein the determining a large display resolution comprises summing the small display resolutions according to the location of each small display within the large display.

9. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the reconfiguring the video data comprises performing an operation selected from the group comprising:

altering coordinates of a drawing command to correspond to a small display; and

creating multiple new drawing commands from a single drawing command, each new drawing command corresponding to a small display.

10. A processor-readable medium as recited in claim 6, wherein the sending comprises determining which small displays to send reconfigured video data to based on which portion of the large display each of the small displays supports.

11. A computer comprising the processor-readable medium recited in claim 6.

12. A system comprising:
a number of small displays assembled as a large display whose size and resolution are scalable by altering the number of small displays; and

a gateway computer configured to reformat large display video data appropriate for display on the large display into small display video data appropriate for display on the small displays depending on how the small displays are assembled.

13. A system as recited in claim 12, further comprising a number of clients each configured to drive a distinct one of the small displays with small display video data received from the gateway computer.

14. A system as recited in claim 12, further comprising a configuration module configured as a part of the gateway computer to receive identification information, location information, and resolution information about each of the small displays, and to calculate the resolution of the large display based on the information.

15. A system as recited in claim 12, further comprising a network computer, the gateway computer being further configured to request the large display video data from the network computer at the resolution of the large display.

16. A system as recited in claim 12, wherein the small displays are selected from the group comprising:

flat panel displays;

computer monitors; and

projectors that illuminate separate portions of a display surface.

17. A system as recited in claim 12, wherein the gateway computer and one of the clients are one and the same device.

18. A computer comprising:

a configuration module configured to receive over a computer network, video data formatted for a large display, and to reformat the video data for one or more small displays that make up the large display.

19. A computer as recited in claim 18, further comprising configuration data indicating an identification, a location within the large display, and a resolution for each of the small displays.

20. A computer as recited in claim 18, further comprising large display video data received from a network computer, the large display video data formatted for display on the large display.

21. A computer as recited in claim 20, further comprising small display video data for sending to one or more of multiple clients, each client configured to drive a small display, the small display video data reformatted from the large

display video data by the configuration module according to the configuration data.